

IOWA OUTDOORS

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.gov

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1. Ceremony Praises Partnership that Purchased Nearly 500 Acres for Public Recreation
2. Fishing When the Fishing's Slow – by Joe Wilkinson
3. DNR Offers Red, White and Green Opportunities
4. Searching for the Gypsy Moth
5. Minnesota and Wisconsin Osprey to Join Iowa Birds
6. DNR Seeks Partner to Manage Concession at Banner Shooting Range
7. Iowa Fishing Report

CEREMONY PRAISES PARTNERSHIP THAT PURCHASED NEARLY 500 ACRES FOR PUBLIC RECREATION

Cooperation was cited as the key, as nearly 500 acres of timber and grassland were formally added Monday to the Stephens State Forest.

The land lies adjacent to the north edge of Stephen's Thousand Acre Unit, northwest of Albia in Monroe County. The \$734,000 purchase price came from a combination of funding sources, including \$350,000 in turkey trade dollars administered by the National Wild Turkey Federation and \$10,000 in direct funding from NWTF. "How the acquisition happened is very significant. I think this is the trend we're going to see," applauded DNR Director Richard Leopold, at the hilltop dedication for the 495-acre tract, adjacent to the north edge of the existing Stephens holdings. "Partnerships like this have to happen."

The purchase of former Iowa Coal Company land marks a major addition to southern Iowa's public hunting opportunities, at a time when private land is often at a premium for outdoor recreation. "It is a real diverse area; lots of different habitat. It has a lot of deer, turkeys and other game species...as well as nongame wildlife, too," noted Jeff Goerndt, DNR forestry manager in the Stephens Unit. "It is not real accessible by vehicle. You're going to walk quite a ways. It offers more of a wild experience for people." Boundary signs will be posted this fall. The DNR will continue paying property taxes on the parcel.

The dedication marked an end of sorts, too. The land was purchased with the last available turkey trade funds; money that came to Iowa in exchange for wild turkeys trapped here and shipped to other states for re-introduction. The \$3.2 million account was critical in 39 land acquisition projects since 1988, totaling 8,297 acres. “It really brought a new value to the wild turkey; that we could make them available to other states and see money come back to Iowa and undertake these projects,” said Dave Whittlesey, regional field supervisor for the NWTF.

The Iowa DNR trapped and transported wild turkeys to various states from 1988 through 2000. Those states, in turn paid into the Turkey Trade trust fund, which the NWTF administered. “It benefits any forest species, and on this tract, upland birds, songbirds and quail,” underscored Whittlesey. “It’s important to have these large tracts of land that are undeveloped.”

And, despite early grumbles that turkey trapping would deplete numbers of the wild birds, Iowa hunter harvest more than doubled during the 1990s, when turkey trading was at its peak. Hunter success rates also increased markedly, even as more new hunters took up the sport, thanks to reproduction of the big birds.

###

FISHING WHEN THE FISHING’S SLOW

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Sure, it might be easy to catch fish when they’re biting. But what do you do it slows down? July in Iowa means midsummer heat, humidity and invariably, a slowdown in most fishing. Anglers spoiled during and after the spawning periods of walleyes, crappies, bluegill and bass are now seeing fish numbers drop as temperatures rise.

Short of finding another hobby, say crossword puzzles in front of the air conditioner, it takes some adjustment. For many anglers, it means different ways to chase their favorite species. For others, it means a different fish altogether.

“Channel catfish are our main summer fish at Lake Darling,” says Vance Poulton, fisheries technician for the Department of Natural Resources, based at the Lake Darling district office. “We basically have an evening shift; anglers coming in about 5:30 and staying until about 10.”

Catfish get the nod from more anglers, and biologists, as the days get hotter and the more popular spring/early summer species pull their disappearing acts. “They’re chasing the bluegills and green sunfish into the shallows on Lake Macbride. Early mornings and late evenings are the best time to fish for them,” observes Paul Sleeper, DNR fisheries biologist,

based at Macbride. “Anglers are casting into the shallows, from the jetties (and rocks); not too deep, the fish are coming toward them.”

Stink bait, cut bait, green sunfish, even shrimp are baits-of-choice for lots of channel cat anglers. Sleeper says the stink baits will catch more of the smaller catfish; which are often preferred for eating. For the bigger ones, though, cut bait or even live bait pay off.

“Chicken livers, stink bait, maybe dead chubs. Lay it on the bottom and wait,” adds Scott Grummer, fisheries technician at Clear Lake. Through May and the first half of June, walleyes were biting at a record pace there, but the bite’s fallen off in the last week or so. Through July and August, channel cats are the ‘target’ species of most anglers. “They’ll bite most of the time, no matter what the water temperature,” says Grummer. “They’re just as available from shore as boat, too.”

However, you don’t have to give up on crappies, walleyes and bass in the months that rhyme with ‘hot.’ You just have to adjust. Chasing crappies a few days ago on Macbride, my neighbor, Larry Taylor predicted it just about to the minute. “They’ll bite in a couple spots, but at 10 o’clock, they just turn off.” We did pretty well for the first couple hours, boating about 16, fishing four or five feet down in an area that ran from eight to 10 feet deep. Most of the crappies were smaller, about eight inches. A few went nine, but a couple stretched nearly to 11 inches. At about 10 o’clock, though, it was as if the door closed. The fish-finder showed plenty of them, but we only hooked three or four in the last hour.

“They were full,” explains Sleeper. “The gizzard shad in Macbride are about an inch long. *Everything* is eating them. Since shad are an open water fish, you’ll find the crappies suspended in deeper water on Macbride, feeding on them.” Sleeper suggests slow trolling, but with a light jig, since fish will be above the thermocline.

In other ‘shad-less’ lakes, look for different clues. “Crappies will be offshore, associated with the creek channels or edges of flooded timber,” suggests fisheries biologist Gary Sobotka, in southwest Iowa. “If not there, they will be suspended in open water, often in six to eight feet of water. They feed all summer, so they’re going to bite.”

The catch, obviously, is locating just where they are.

###

DNR OFFERS RED, WHITE, AND GREEN OPPORTUNITIES

DES MOINES — As Iowans continue to show their patriotic spirit following Independence Day, the Keepers of the Land Volunteer Program, in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, encourages volunteers to take advantage of opportunities to give back to their country through service to public lands and waters.

- **Rain Garden Opportunity:** Members of the Carter Lake Preservation Society are seeking volunteers to assist in creating the largest rain garden area in western Iowa,

July 28. Two rain gardens will be constructed along the lake shore. Volunteers are needed for planning, construction, and planting. For more information contact Jeanne Eibes at 712-669-8586.

- **Park Construction Opportunity:** Officials at Wapsipinicon State Park are seeking volunteers to assist with various construction projects including repairing and painting picnic tables, installing benches and shade canopies, redesigning and replacing a campground kiosk, and constructing picnic and playground shelters. This opportunity starts immediately and ends upon project completion. For more information contact Dennis Murphy at 319-462-2761.
- **Watercraft Inspections Opportunity:** Officials with the DNR are seeking volunteers to assist with controlling aquatic invasive species through boater education activities. This opportunity starts immediately and ends September 30. For more information contact Kim Bogenschutz or Jason Euchner at 515-432-2823 ext. 103 or 515-432-2823 ext. 118.
- **Prairie Restoration Opportunity:** Officials at Dolliver State Park are seeking volunteers to help with prairie restoration through clearing of invasive species and assist with prescribed burns. This opportunity starts immediately continues through fall. For more information contact Kevin Henning at 515-543-8289.
- **Flower Gardening and Arranging Opportunity:** Officials at Cedar Rock State Park are seeking volunteers to assist with maintaining flower gardens at the park visitor center and Walter House, and creating flower arrangements from the flower gardens that are displayed in the Walter House. For more information contact Pat Schmitz at 319-934-3572.
- **Girls Outdoor Skills Opportunity:** Officials with the Outdoor Journey for Girls Program are seeking volunteers to serve as chaperones for an upcoming outdoor skills camp for girls August 1-3 at Springbrook State Park. Outdoor Journey introduces outdoor skills like canoeing, fishing, and camping to girls ages 12-15 in a supportive environment. Interested volunteers can contact Megan Wisecup at 515-281-7828.
- **River Cleanup Opportunities:** Communities and organizations across Iowa are holding river cleanup opportunities all summer. For information about these events visit the DNR's river cleanup events calendar <http://www.iowater.net/StreamCleanupEvents.htm>.

Visit the Keepers of the Land website at www.keepersoftheland.org for information on these and more volunteer opportunities. For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us.

###

SEARCHING FOR THE GYPSY MOTH

DES MOINES – State and federal officials working with local agencies and volunteers are on the lookout for the hitchhiking gypsy moth, a non-native pest that could impact the health of Iowa oak trees and forests.

“Gypsy moth caterpillars eat the leaves of oaks, apples, basswood, poplars, willows and more than 500 different species of trees and shrubs during the growing season. This causes the plants to releaf and become susceptible to other insect, disease and environmental stresses. Repeated defoliation of trees causes tree death,” said John Walkowiak, forester and land protection leader with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

More than 16 Eastern, mid-Atlantic and Midwestern states are dealing with gypsy moths, with New Jersey and Pennsylvania dealing with large outbreaks this year. The closest growing gypsy moth caterpillar infestations to Iowa are in south central Wisconsin and areas along north shore of Lake Superior.

State officials with the Iowa DNR, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and federal USDA agencies have been cooperating for the past 20 years to find gypsy moth infestations when small by placing brown-orange-green milk carton gypsy moth pheromone traps. These pheromone traps contain the scent of female gypsy moths to attract male gypsy moths inside a sticky trap. The traps have helped state and federal officials to locate and control many small gypsy moth infestations in Iowa that were brought over by accident in infested nursery stock or household items when people move from infested states.

This year, the Iowa DNR became the lead state agency for gypsy moth efforts. Again, the DNR, along with IDALS and USDA agencies, placed more than 5,100 gypsy moth traps by July 1 using federal and state entomologists and foresters along with trained forestry contractors of the Northeast Iowa and Prairie Rivers Resource Conservation and Development areas.

“In addition, over 150 Iowans volunteered to place and monitor gypsy moth traps on their own properties. Gypsy moth traps will be removed after Labor Day and pose no risk to citizens or non-targeted insects and animals,” Walkowiak said.

“Early detection is the key for keeping gypsy moth out of Iowa as long as possible, and the work of field staff of DNR, IDALS and USDA along with volunteers has proven to be a cost-effective way to protect Iowa trees and forests,” Walkowiak said.

Regionally, Iowa is an active partner in the Slow-The-Spread program, also known as STS, that includes 16 state and federal agencies working together to target detection and treatments to prevent the spread of gypsy moth.

“Thanks to our STS partners in Minnesota and Wisconsin implementing targeted gypsy moth treatments the spread of gypsy moth has been reduced to less than three miles a year, giving Iowa time to detect and find small gypsy moth infestations,” he said.

For more information on the Iowa gypsy moth program and efforts go to www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/pdf/Gypsymoth.pdf

For more information, contact Walkowiak at 515-281-5218.

An electronic photo is available by sending an email to
john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us

###

MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN OSPREYS TO JOIN IOWA BIRDS

Thirty ospreys from Wisconsin and Minnesota will be placed at five sites around Iowa from July 11 to 14. The young ospreys, approximately 42 days old, are developed enough to tear apart their favorite food, fish, by themselves.

The osprey will be housed in release structures and will attain flight status at about 53 days of age. Where the birds learn to fly and fish on their own becomes their “home,” where survivors return to nest at four or five years-of-age. Volunteers and wildlife professionals at five sites are ready to fill the niche the osprey adults were providing their young with fish and security. In conjunction with feeding the birds, the young ospreys are monitored daily to ensure they will be flight ready.

Placing the ospreys at five sites will be somewhat dependent upon weather conditions in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but calling the phone numbers provided should offer the precise times for placement. The public is welcome to the placement of the birds at their special release or “hack” structures. Birds will be placed at Elk Rock at 8 p.m., July 11 (641-891-8226); at Clear Lake 10 a.m., July 12 (641-357-3517); at White Rock Conservancy 9 a.m., July 12 (712-830-6116); at Spirit Lake 10 a.m., July 12 (712-330-1080); and at Linn County Wickiup Hill 9:30 a.m., July 14 (319-892-6450).

There have been 154 ospreys released at eight sites since 1997. Ospreys have been nesting in Iowa since 2003 and produced 16 young from eight successful nestings. In 2006, there were six nesting attempts and four nests produced eight young. In 2007, there are eight nesting pairs. All Iowa ospreys have a purple band with number and letter on right leg and silver USFWS band on left leg. The wild-produced ospreys from Iowa have a green USFWS band.

Go to http://www.iowadnr.gov/parks/state_park_list/elk_rock.html to view the Elk Rock osprey.

###

DNR SEEKS PARTNER TO MANAGE CONCESSION AT BANNER SHOOTING RANGE

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking a management partner to oversee Banner Shooting Range, near Indianola. The partner will work closely with the DNR to create a small business which focuses on developing customers who are

interested in shooting sports, share knowledge of firearms and their safety, and have experience in running a natural resource business.

The newly renovated range facility adjoins Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park, north of Indianola, as well as the Middle River Wildlife Area with more than 1,000 acres of public hunting. The updated range facilities include a 50-yard handgun/rimfire range, a 100-yard rifle range, a recreational shotgun area and periodic access to a five-stand sporting clays unit. The range also includes two concession buildings with retail and workshop space.

The management partner will direct all range and retail operations, including overseeing staff and providing goods such as shooting supplies, snacks and beverages. The DNR will provide facilities, some (capital) equipment and business and marketing assistance. Additionally, the successful management partner will work closely with the DNR shooting sports coordinator to develop and conduct events to educate the public and promote the Banner Range facility.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and summary of qualifications to the DNR on or before July 30, 2007. Candidates submitting letters of interest will subsequently be invited to submit a business plan for managing the range. The DNR anticipates publication of a request for proposal in August or September 2007.

For more information, contact Ben Berka, shooting sports coordinator with the Iowa DNR, at 515-281-0140.

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of July 10, 2007

www.iowadnr.gov

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing has been slow; a few walleyes are still being caught around Buffalo Run and Big Stoney in 18 to 24 feet of water mainly using night crawlers. A few walleyes are being caught at the North Grade.

West Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is fair along the weed lines with leeches. Anglers have also been trolling crankbaits over the tops of weed beds picking up fish in 14 to 20 feet of water. Most fish are 14 to 17 inches, with an occasional fish in the 17 to 22-inch protected slot. Fishing is good for bluegills along weed lines in 12 to 15 feet of water using garden worms. Largemouth bass fishing is good around weed lines with leeches or night crawlers. Fishing is good for yellow perch around weed lines using garden worms

and leeches. Browns Bay, Millers Bay, North Bay and Emerson Bay have produced fish. A few smallmouth bass are being caught using tubes around Pillsbury, Fort Dodge and Lime Kiln points.

East Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Fishing is fair for bluegills around docks using garden worms.

Center Lake (Dickinson): Bluegill fishing is good around the north shoreline using garden worms for 7 to 9-inch fish.

West Fork of the Des Moines River (Emmet): Fishing is good for channel catfish around submerged brush using chicken liver.

Little Sioux River (Clay and Dickinson): Channel catfish fishing is good using cut bait and night crawlers.

Black Hawk (Sac): Channel catfish are good on a variety of baits.

North Twin (Calhoun): Fishing is fair for bluegill under the docks with small jigs tipped with wax worm or power nuggets

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Walleye and white bass fishing is fair trolling crankbaits. Fishing is good for catfish on leeches, night crawlers, liver, crayfish and stink bait.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Bass are hiding in the shade or just off the bottom in 20 feet of water. Bluegills are just off the bottom in 10 to 15 feet of water. Crappies have scattered throughout the lake. Smaller walleyes are hitting on live bait in the evening.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass are starting to hit using live bait. A new year class of yellows in the 7-inch range are being caught along with a few large fish. Channel catfish are starting to hit on chicken liver and stink bait. Fishing for catfish mornings and evenings provides the best action.

Beeds Lake (Franklin): Largemouth bass fishing is good in the early morning and evening casting the shoreline with spinner baits.

Smith Lake (Kossuth): Largemouth bass fishing is good. Spinner baits and jerk baits are working the best. Remember Smith Lake has an 18-inch minimum length on bass. Channel catfish angling is good using chicken liver, stink baits and dead chubs.

Lake Cornelia (Wright): Fishing is fair for 9 to 11-inch bullheads using night crawlers. Channel catfish angling is excellent using chicken liver, stink bait and dead chubs.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Farm Ponds: Bluegill, largemouth bass, and channel catfish are biting well.

Icaria (Adams): Several mid-sized walleyes are being caught on jigs or jigs and minnows. Some channel catfish are being caught. The lake is full and running over.

Little River (Decatur): Channel catfish are biting from the bays and some in the rocks. Some walleye are being caught on jigs and minnows. Water clarity is approximately 4 feet at the dam.

Wilson (Taylor): Some channel catfish are biting on stink baits or liver.

Windmill (Taylor): Some channel catfish have been caught on liver.

Green Valley (Union): Fishing is good for channel catfish on night crawlers, stink bait and liver off silt dikes or in shallow bays or from the rocks. Some bluegills can be caught from the cedar trees. Water clarity is approximately 4 feet at the dam.

Three Mile (Union): Walleyes are biting on night crawlers and leeches over the mounds. Some crappie can be caught from the flooded trees. Water clarity is about 6 1/2 feet at the dam.

Twelve Mile (Union): Small and mid-sized walleyes are being caught on night crawlers or leeches. Some bluegill can be caught from the flooded trees. Anglers are catching largemouth bass up to 17 inches with most between 11 and 13 inches. The lake is full and running over. Water clarity is about 8 feet at the dam.

Badger Creek (Madison): Channel catfish can be caught from the riprap areas. Several small bluegills can be caught from the ends of the jetties.

Three Fires (Taylor): Bluegill fishing is excellent with several 7 to 8-inch fish being caught. Some nice channel catfish can be caught on liver or stink baits. Largemouth bass fishing is good near structure. The lake is full and easily usable. The water has about 3 feet of clarity at the dam.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Anglers are catching some crappies near shore at dusk and dawn. Several bluegills are being caught on night crawlers. Channel catfish are biting on stink baits or night crawlers in the rocks or close to shore.

West Osceola (Clarke): Largemouth bass fishing is good near shore and around the trees. Channel catfish can be caught from the shallow bays during the evening.

Contact: Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes.

Big Creek (Polk): Decent size largemouth bass are being caught along the shore on artificial lures. Bluegills are biting on a small piece of night crawler fished around the shore and structure. Catfishing is fair on night crawlers and chicken liver.

Hickory Grove (Story): Catfishing is fair on night crawlers and chicken liver in the evening. Most fish are 12 to 18 inches, with some larger fish mixed in. Bass, crappie and bluegill fishing is slow.

Saylorville (Polk): White bass fishing is good on crankbaits and spinners that imitate shad. Catfishing is fair on night crawlers.

Saylorville Dam (Polk): Catfishing is decent on chicken liver, night crawlers and live bait in the evening.

Ahquabi (Warren): Largemouth bass are biting on artificial lures and bluegills on worms under a bobber. Overall, fishing is slow.

Easter Lake (Polk): Catfishing is still fair on stink bait and liver. Largemouth bass is fair to good on top-water baits and jigs. Some walleyes are being picked up on crankbaits.

Don Williams (Boone): Fishing is decent with lots of anglers catching 10-inch crappies with minnows under a bobber. Bluegills are biting on worms. Catfishing is fair on worms and stink bait. Bass fishing is fair in the mornings and evenings on artificial lures.

Red Rock (Marion): The white bass fishing has been good. Try spinners and jigs in shad colors. Catfishing is decent on night crawlers and leeches.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Catfishing is good on just about anything: liver, worms, live bait, cut bait, shrimp are all working. Some crappies are being caught suspended over deeper water on jigs.

Contact: Ben Dodd (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes

Orient (Adair): Channel catfish fishing is good during the day on prepared baits with an average size of 20 inches. Bluegills are fair and can be caught on small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass is fair using a slow retrieve and plastic worms.

Nodaway (Adair): Bluegill fishing is slow using small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Crappies are slow, but a few are being caught around brush piles with minnows. Channel catfish is fair using liver.

Greenfield (Adair): Bluegill fishing is slow with a few still being caught close to shore on jigs. Largemouth bass are being caught using plastic baits and spinner baits. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using liver.

Morman Trail (Adair): Bluegills are fair on south and west side of lake. Channel catfish is good using liver around jetties and in the shallow bays in the evening.

Littlefield (Audubon): Crappie fishing has slowed, but a few are being caught drifting a jig and minnow. Bluegills are fair casting a small jig tipped with night crawlers. Channel catfish has been fair in shallow bays and corners of the dam using stink bait.

Anita (Cass): Anglers are catching 7 to 8-inch bluegill using jigs from shore and around the jetties. Channel catfish from 2 to 6 pounds are being caught on night crawlers and blood bait. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair for fish up to 18 inches. Crankbaits and jigs have been used around brush piles and rock piles.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): A few walleye have been caught drifting night crawlers around sunken trees. Crappie fishing is slow. Channel catfish is fair on outside bend close to shore in the rocks. Dip baits with a red worm have been producing fish in the 2 to 4 pound range.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): A few wipers are being caught using night crawlers. Channel catfish is fair drifting cut bait or shrimp.

Arrowhead (Pottawattamie): Bluegills are fair using jigs with night crawlers. Fish are 7 to 8 inches. Channel catfish are good using liver and prepared bait close to shore around jetties.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is slow for crappies and bluegill. Channel catfish fishing is fair using liver shallow bays. A few largemouth bass are being caught using crawdad-colored lures.

Willow (Harrison): Bluegill fishing is fair close to shore on jigs tipped with night crawlers. Fishing is been good for 12 to 14-inch with bass on plastic worms and crankbaits.

Schaben (Harrison): Bluegills are fair using small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass are also being caught on night crawlers and plastic baits.

Farm ponds are good for largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. Be sure to ask permission from the landowner first.

Contact: Bryan Hayes (712) 769-2587 for information on the above area lakes.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: Water levels in all pools are below flood stage. Water temperature at Muscatine is 83 degrees. Water level at Muscatine 3.74 and falling slowly. Crappies and bluegills are biting in backwaters on red worms and wax worms. Catfishing is good on leeches, shrimp or stink bait along rocks. Walleyes are biting on the wing dams. Drum are hitting on night crawlers.

Lake Darling (Washington): Catfishing has been fair with the bite seeming to be in the late evening using chicken liver.

Lake Geode (Henry): Bluegills are fair fishing the edges of the weed lines. Catfish are biting on chicken liver by the dam and in the bay across from the boat ramp.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing is fair. The fish are near the surface before sunrise and get deeper as the sun gets higher. Anglers are catching some nice catfish; fishing is best in the late evening.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Walleyes have been biting on night crawlers being drifted or trolled around rocky points and underwater islands. Crappies have been biting on minnows fished around structure. Channel catfish have been biting on liver and night crawlers.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Bluegills and crappies have been hitting on small jigs drifted in the deeper areas of the lake. Channel catfish have been biting on liver and night crawlers.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs tipped with night crawlers and drifted in the deeper water areas of the lake. Largemouth bass have been hitting on crankbaits and spinner baits fished near structure.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Bluegills have been hitting small jigs tipped with a wax worm or a night crawler. Largemouth bass have been hitting spinner baits and crankbaits. Mornings and evenings have been the most productive.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Channel catfish are hanging around rock jetties and hitting on stink bait and night crawlers. Bluegills and crappies are in the deeper brush and hitting small jigs or wax worms.

Kent Park (Johnson): Channel catfish are biting on stink bait and night crawlers while the bluegills are biting on small worms or wax worms. Do not fish deeper than 8 feet as there is little oxygen available in the water below 8 feet.

Cedar River (Linn): Channel catfish are still being taken on shad, shiners, and chubs. Flatheads are being picked up on bluegills and chubs. White bass and the occasional walleye are also being caught below the dams on minnows.

Skunk River (Washington and Henry): The river level is dropping but may be on the way back up with the forecasted thunderstorms. Catfishing is good to fair using stink baits.

Iowa River (Louisa): The river is falling slowly. Catfishing is fair to good. There are a lot of grass frogs on the riverbanks and now is the time for using them as bait.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: Water levels on the Mississippi River are falling slightly in all the upper pools. Water levels on Monday were 7.9 feet at Lansing, 12.45 feet at Lynxville, Wis., 4 feet at Guttenberg, and 4.24 feet at Bellevue. Water temperature is hovering in the low 80s and clarity is very good. Lower water levels and clear water conditions continue to result in good fishing on the river, however, as water levels continue to drop, boating becomes more difficult. More reports are coming in from individuals hitting underwater stumps, logs and rock piles while boating.

When searching for fish, do not stay in one spot more than 15-20 minutes without a bite. It usually pays to move around to find the right combination of current and bottom type for the species you are after.

Walleye fishing is fair to good in **Pools 12 to 15** along the wing dams that still have good flow and depth. Three-way rigs with spinners or floaters tipped with a night crawler or leech work well as do crankbaits trolled along the front of the wing dams or cast on top and fish down the face of the dam. Every day is different for anglers chasing walleye—one day is good and another may be slow.

Fishing is good to excellent for channel catfish in **Pools 9 to 15** as they continue to move onto the rocks to spawn. Fish worms, minnows, cut bait or stink baits by drifting the bait under a bobber through the rocks and riprap areas in the side channels and below the wing dams. Some folks report catching catfish using chicken liver and prepared baits in the running sloughs and main channel areas.

Bluegill fishing has been good in an array of spots from the backwaters to the main channel in **Pools 9 to 15**. Fish are being caught using night crawlers fished on the bottom and off of brush piles. Try fishing the pockets below the dams in **Pools 9 to 11** and in slack water next to structure. With the warmer water conditions, bluegills are biting in Minnesota Slough, near New Albin (**Pool 9**), Harpers Slough, in Harpers Ferry (**Pool 10**) and in Cassville Slough (**Pool 11**). Bluegills appear to be on the move and looking for current situations. Try fishing at the near-shore section of the wing dams or around log piles off the main channel.

Fishing for freshwater drum is excellent in **Pools 9 to 15** using a simple sliding sinker and a night crawler. Larger drum, many around 5 pounds, are being caught using crayfish as bait. The big ones are more for sport, although, some anglers used them for smoking. Night crawlers will yield fish of all sizes, but primarily the smaller edible-size fish. Drum are found mostly in current situations and you do not need a boat to catch them. Tailwater areas and wing dams are good areas to fish for drum, but remember to move if you don't get a bite within 15 minutes. The move does not necessarily have to be a long one—sometimes only 50 yards is all it takes.

Largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing is good to excellent in **Pools 9 to 15** on a variety of lures including small spinners, crankbaits, jigs, top-water lures and soft plastics. Both species are feeding heavily along rocky areas with current. Try backwater sloughs along the snags for hungry largemouth. Many largemouth bass have moved to edges of current situations to feed on minnows. The key to bass fishing is to find habitat and structure. Banks with riprap, snags and logs along the shoreline or a combination of these structures is even better. Areas with good to excellent bass angling opportunities include Lansing Big Lake and Winneshiek Slough (**Pool 9**), below the dam and at the

spillway in **Pool 10**, and in Cassville Slough near Guttenberg (**Pool 11**). In **Pools 12 to 15**, fish the main channel as well as the backwaters for largemouth bass. Anglers are catching smallmouth bass fishing the rock and woody structure in current areas using in-line spinners, jigs, stick baits, and crankbaits. Seek areas with some flow as the water level is dropping and water temperature increasing.

White bass are being caught in the tailwaters of **Lock 9** at Lynxville and **Lock 10** at Guttenberg, on white twister tail jigs and small spinners. Average size of white bass has been small, but occasionally, the larger 16-inch fish are being taken.

Northern pike fishing continues to be good in **Pools 9 to 11** for anglers fishing near the tributaries of the cool water streams that empty into the Mississippi River. Pike will continue to seek these cool water areas as summertime temperature heats up.

Spinners or white jigs work well.

Cedar River (Mitchell, Floyd and Chickasaw): Water levels are low and fishing is excellent for channel catfish using chicken liver and dead chubs. Walleye fishing is fair. Walleye are being caught on blue double-tailed twister tails worked very slowly (reel in 3 inches of line, pause, reel in 3 inches of line, pause). Smallmouth bass are biting on green or purple twister tails and tube jigs.

Cedar, West Fork Cedar and Shell Rock rivers (Butler, Bremer and Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting well on night crawlers, chicken liver and stink bait. Smallmouth bass fishing is picking up using jigs tipped with a night crawler in the Cedar and Shell Rock rivers.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): Walleye fishing is good above Lake Delhi using jigs tipped with a piece of night crawler. Smallmouth bass fishing is good below the Lake Delhi dam in the catch-and-release area of the river. Smallmouth are hitting crankbaits or night crawlers drifted below a bobber. The river is clear and fishing conditions are excellent.

Turkey River (Clayton): The river has cleared up. Smallmouth bass fishing is excellent using night crawlers, 3-inch white twister tails or shad raps fished in the slower water right near the edge of faster moving water. Rock bass are being caught on small pieces of night crawlers fished next to rock boulders and riprap. Walleye fishing is good throughout the day using a variety of lures.

Upper Iowa River (Winneshiek and Allamakee): Walleye fishing has been excellent with the majority of the fish being caught midday on a night crawler and jig or twister tails. Walleye can be caught right at the lower dam using twister tails. Try using a heavier jig head to get down into the current. The majority of walleye being caught are 14 to 18 inches. Northern pike fishing has slowed, but a few smaller fish are still being caught using crankbaits. Fishing for smallmouth bass is excellent using twister tails, shad raps, crankbaits and night crawlers on the edge of the current breaks. Quite a few 13 to 14 inch smallmouth bass are being caught throughout the day, with some trophy-sized fish mixed in. Channel catfish fishing is good using chicken livers downstream of the lower dam all the way to the mouth. Quite a few snapping turtles are being caught while catfishing as well.

Wapsipinicon River (Buchanan): Smallmouth bass and walleye fishing is fair using crankbaits or jigs tipped with a night crawler.

Black Hawk County Lakes and Ponds: Bluegill and crappie fishing is fair to good. Fish around structure in deeper water using jigs tipped with a minnow or try drifting a minnow under a slip bobber across the lake to locate fish.

Casey Lake (Tama): Bluegill fishing has been very good in the shallow water near shore. When fishing for bluegills, use a piece of worm on a small hook suspended under a bobber. Fishing is good for channel catfish using fresh shrimp, chicken liver or dead cut baits.

Lake Delhi (Delaware): Crappie fishing is good in the lower section of the lake. Fish the deeper water by drifting a minnow under a slip bobber in order to locate crappies.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Fishing is fair for channel catfish using chicken liver, stink bait, cut bait, or worms fished on the bottom. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using plastic worms worked near structure; however, anglers are having better success with top-water lures fished during the evening hours. Fishing is fair for bluegills on wax worms or a piece of night crawler suspended under a bobber, or with artificial flies. Crappie fishing is fair on small tube jigs fished in deeper water.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Channel catfish are close to shore next to the larger logs and riprap in the lake. Catfishing is good using chicken liver fished under bobbers over the snags on the south and west sides of the lake. They are also being caught in the evenings on the east side in the shallows using chicken liver fished on the bottom. Crappie can be caught in the snags using small tube jigs. There are quite a few small ones in the shallows, but the larger fish are out in 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegill fishing is excellent, but many are on the small side. The larger bluegill are being caught in 8 to 10 feet of water on the west side using tube jigs or angle worms and very small hooks. Largemouth bass are being caught with surface lures especially in the evening hours. Try using plastic weed-less worms during other hours of the day.

Plainfield Lake (Bremer): Crappies are biting well drifting a minnow under a bobber along the weed beds.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Fishing is picking up for channel catfish. Largemouth bass fishing is picking up in the early morning and late evening hours. Use slower-moving artificial lures worked along structure. Bluegill fishing is good using wax worms under a bobber.

Wapsipinicon River (Buchanan): Fishing is good for walleye and northern pike using crankbaits. Concentrate your efforts for walleye near rock piles.

Trout fishing and stream conditions are excellent. Mornings and evenings usually provide the best success for catching trout. In mid-summer, these times of day are easier on the angler as well! Many trout stream stockings are announced and the dates of proposed stockings can be found on the Iowa DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov or by calling the trout stocking hotline at 563-927-5736.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

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